

journal of the national association. The *Journal A. M. A.* of March 3, 1928, credited the California Medical Association with a total of 4,536 members. The statistics also brought out that there were a total of 8,854 licensed physicians in California, a difference which shows a non-membership total far above what it should be. The above and other figures in the report alluded to, provoke suggestive thought to all who believe in an organized medical profession.

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Members of component county societies should keep constantly in mind the desirability of bringing every ethical practitioner of proper professional qualifications into affiliation with the component society of the county in which that eligible practitioner resides; and also, that every county society, which fails to bring such eligible physicians into affiliation with organized medicine, to that extent at least, is lacking in fullest possible efficiency.

The obligation of bringing such eligible practitioners into the fold of organized medicine should not be passed over as a sole responsibility of the officers of the county unit, for such is not the case. It is an individual and a very personal responsibility which applies to each of us. It is true that the county society officers should take the initiative, but each of us should be militant and alert in this expression of society activity, and lose no opportunity to make our respective county representation approach more and more the one hundred per cent membership standard. The subject has been discussed in some detail in past issues of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* (May, 1927, p. 665, and January, 1928, p. 81), and officers of county units who are in doubt on how to proceed are requested to read the suggestions therein made.

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With concerted effort a very considerable addition to our membership could accrue in these remaining months of the present 1928 year. At any rate, even though many of these eligible physicians do not join now, they could be approached and their applications considered and voted on, so that they might be brought into active membership with the beginning of the new year. It would be interesting and very profitable to all concerned if a friendly contest could be inaugurated during the next few months to determine what county unit in California would show the largest percentage of membership increase. If we all do our respective parts, the 1929 San Diego annual session will be the recipient of progress reports in organization, that will be gratifying to every physician who is interested in the welfare of his profession.

C. M. A. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REVISION

Two years ago several amendments were proposed to the present constitution and by-laws of the California Medical Association.

In a consideration of the same it was decided that it might be well to have a complete revision

of the entire code undertaken, and to that end a committee of nine was appointed.

This committee presented its final report at the last annual session at Sacramento, and requested that it be discharged from its labors.

The House of Delegates having decided not to consider the revision at the Sacramento session, it was voted to print this committee draft and also a complete revision draft prepared by the general counsel of the Association in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*. These two drafts are accordingly presented in this issue of the official journal.

A special committee, consisting of Doctors Percy Magan of Los Angeles, George Reinle of Oakland, and Alexander Keenan of San Francisco, was appointed by President Kiger and President-elect Gibbons, to make a study of these two drafts and to bring in a report thereon.

The attention of the members of the component county societies of the California Medical Association is called to these drafts which are now printed, and all members are urged to read and study the same. Suggestions are invited and may be sent to any member of the committee or to the Association.

In addition to the amendments in the proposed revisions which are now printed, other proposed amendments were submitted at the Sacramento session. Members who wish to make comparisons with the constitution and by-laws by which the California Medical Association is now governed, will find the same with other proposed amendments which were reintroduced at the Sacramento session in the August, 1927, issue of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, page 244.

THE ECONOMICS OF OPHTHALMIC PRACTICE—SOME MODERN DAY DRIFTS

Sight, of all the special senses, has a paramount place in the development and fate of mankind. Its conservation has merited all the splendid work of the host of medical men who, in the past, have given of their best to make the specialty of ophthalmology an outstanding science. That the future of the specialty will be safe in the hands of present day and future ophthalmologists may be taken for granted, for with both broader and more specialized training, high standard scientific progress in this field of medical endeavor should continue to be made.

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Nevertheless, as in a number of other specialties of medical practice, the economic outlook for the newer devotees or disciples of ophthalmologic practice may be said to be not overly reassuring. By this statement is meant that, in comparison with the greater cost of modern training for efficient service in this specialty, and the longer time period of preliminary preparation and study required nowadays, the financial rewards which will come to the average man in this specialty, in return for all his super expenditure of funds and study, are quite unalluring.

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Why should such be the case? Why should not the broader preliminary education, the more exact-